

REMARKS

Claims 12-17 are pending in the present application. Claim 14 was amended to improve form.. No new matter was introduced as a result of the amendments. Entry of the amendments and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Specification was objected to for informalities. Regarding the objection to the title, Applicant has amended the title to comply with the language suggested by the examiner. Regarding to the objection to the “underlined and crossed over words,” Applicant presumes the objected is related to the preliminary amendment filed on April 29, 2005. Applicant points out that the preliminary amendment contained both a “clean” copy and a “marked-up version” of the specification, which was accepted by the PTO (and verified in PAIR). Applicant submits that a new specification is not required at this time.

The Office Action also objected to the present disclosure, requesting that the Applicant “furnish a flowchart clarifying the method of the operations of the invention.” Applicant does not understand the basis for this objection. The present disclosure contains 3 figures that were submitted together with the preliminary amendment at the time of filing. Applicant directs the Examiner’s attention to FIGs. 2-3, where system diagrams illustrate exemplary scenarios through which the presently claimed methods are carried out. Since one skilled in the art can readily understand the methods claimed in the present application, Applicant submits the objection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Claims 12-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ford (US Patent 6,349,201). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Specifically, Ford fails to teach or suggest the features of “detecting at least one available communications network at the location of the communication device; selecting one of the communications networks when more than one communications network is detected; sending an emergency signal over the selected network; identifying the communication device; and localizing the identified communication device by using a localization method available over the selected network” as recited in claim 12.

Regarding Ford, the disclosure is related to a bullet-proof vest, configured with sensors and a transmitter (FIGs. 3-4), where distress and warning signals are transmitted to remote locations (Abstract, col. 1, lines 8-11; col. 5, lines 21-33). Ford teaches that, when impact sensors are triggered (or a physiological condition is sensed), the vest automatically transmits a

distress signal to a dispatcher or receiver, where impact sensor data, location data, and physiological data regarding the user are sent (col. 5, lines 21-64). While the Office Action suggests that Ford discloses the features of detecting/selecting communication networks, Applicant respectfully submits that this is not the case. Specifically, in col. 5, lines 25-27, Ford discloses that “[t]he transmitter is preferably a radio but other transmitters (such as infrared transmitters) can be employed and practice [sic] the invention.” Thus, Frank merely discloses different types of transmission methods (i.e., RF, infrared), but is wholly silent regarding the detection/selection of communication networks. Applicant further submits that the configuration in Frank appears to be incapable of making any distinctions regarding the (singular) network over which the transmitter transmits.

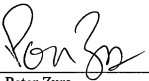
Additionally, the claims recite “using a localization method available over the selected network.” In contrast, Ford teaches the use of a GPS device, which provides location information on an entirely different network (col. 5, line 60 - col. 6, line 9). Once a user’s coordinates are obtained, the GPS forwards the data to the controller, which in turn transmits the GPS coordinates as ordinary data via RF (or infrared) transmission. For at least these reasons, Applicant submits the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Additionally, Applicant point out that amended dependent claim 14 clarifies that the network is a cellular communication network. While Ford briefly mentions cellular phones (see col. 6, lines 10-19), it is clear from the disclosure that the cell phone and cellular network has no bearing on the transmission of the distress signal. Instead, the cell phone is physically attached to a vest so that dispatchers may place a cellular call to the user after the distress signal has been received.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits the rejections are traversed and should be withdrawn. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If any additional fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the Examiner is authorized to deduct such fees from deposit account no. 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the attorney docket no. (0112740-1072) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 4, 2007